



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTY.'S DOCKET: DECASTRO10

In re Application of:)	Art Unit: 3743
)	
Aurora L. FERNANDEZ-DECASTRO)	Examiner: A. M. RAGONESE
)	
Appln. No.: 10/659,325)	Confirmation No. 3767
)	
Filed: September 11, 2003)	Washington, D.C.
)	
For: MULTIPURPOSE MASK)	
)	

DECLARATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.131

Customer Window, Mail Stop
Honorable Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
2011 South Clark Place
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Sir:

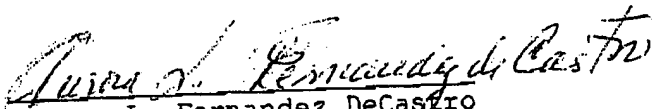
Aurora L. Fernandez DeCastro, the applicant in the above-identified patent application, declares as follows:

1. That sometime prior to October 17, 2002, I conceived of a multipurpose protective mask covering at least the nose and mouth of the wearer to protect the wearer from environmental agents such as particulates and microorganisms.
2. That the mask in question included an aperture or orifice allowing the wearer to receive hydration or nourishment, which aperture can be covered in a variety of different ways to preserve the integrity or total closure of the mask when there is no need for hydration or nutrition. Copies of relevant notebook pages signed by applicant and witnessed by Mary A. Sproull, are attached hereto as Appendix A.
3. That prior to October 17, 2002, applicant contacted her patent attorney and requested a patentability

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search on the mask as further evidence of diligence.
A copy of the first page of the search report received
from applicant's attorney is attached hereto As
Appendix B.

Declarant further states that the above statements
were made with the knowledge that willful false
statements and the like so made are punishable by fine
and/or imprisonment, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of
the United States Code, and that any such willful
false statement may jeopardize the validity of this
application or any patent issuing therefrom.


Aurora L. Fernandez DeCastro

Project title - Multipurpose Protective Mask -

The mask envisioned in the present invention covers at least the nose and mouth and surrounding areas. The mask has an air filter quality to protect the wearer from environmental agents surrounding the person. The mask is not hermetically sealed but fits snugly over the face to protect the wearer from biological or chemical agents present in the atmosphere surrounding the wearer.

1. The present mask however has an aperture or orifice in the mask to allow for hydration or nutriment or intake gaseous agents without taking off the mask.

This is in contrast to present available masks that must be taken off in order to get hydration or nutriment to the wearer leaving the wearer without protection from the environment.

In the present invention the wearer can maintain protection for longer periods of time from harmful agents.

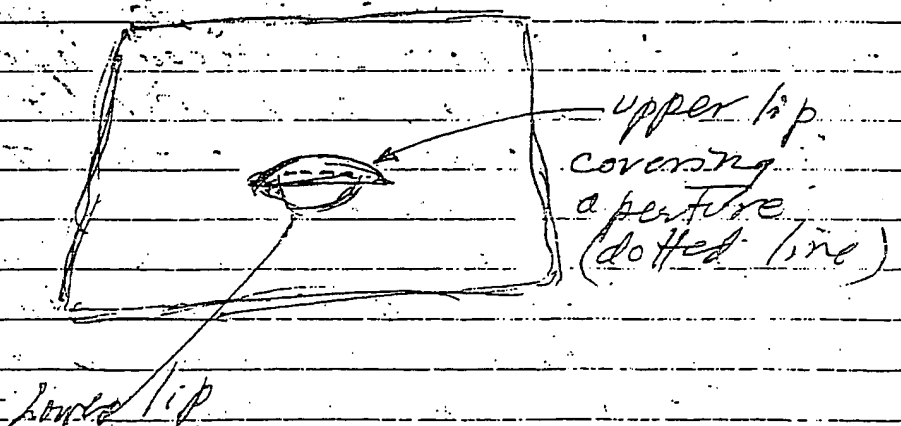
The aperture or orifice that is made in the mask can be covered in many different ways to preserve the integrity or total closure of the mask when there is no need for hydration or nutriment.

Witnessed & Understood by
MARY R. SPROUL
Mary G. Sproul

Invented by
Recorded by
2

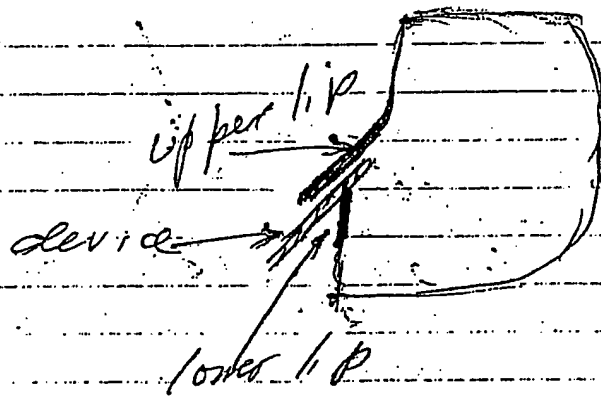
The features of the present invention can be incorporated into different types of available masks whether the masks are molded or not ~~and~~ whether the way to hold the mask to the face is through bands around the ears or bands over the head, or whether the mask has multiple folds and the aperture can be hidden between the folds or whether the mask does not have folds or whether the mask material is more or less rigid.

Some examples of these protective facial masks are as follows -

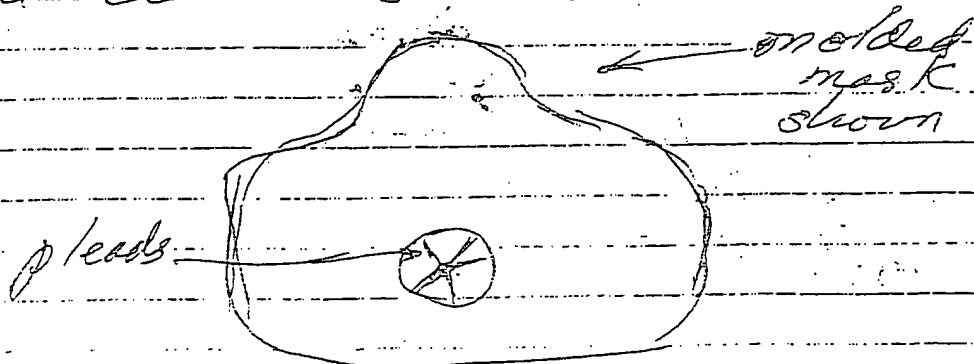


This mask has an upper lip that overlaps the lower lip. Both lips are not sealed together allowing a device

for hydration or nutrients to be inserted between the lips. A side view would be such as



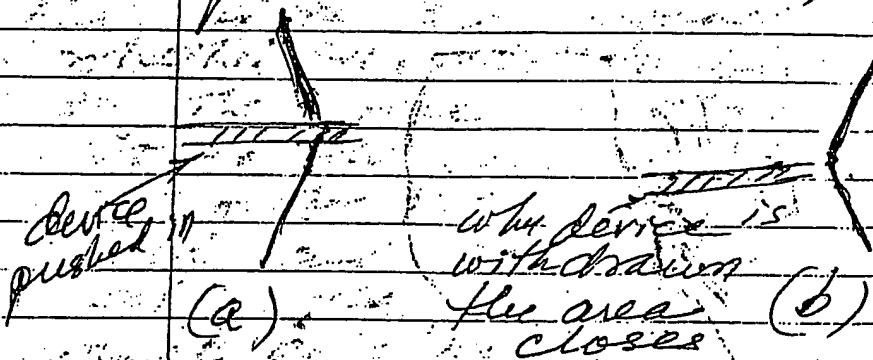
Another example of the multipurpose mask can be such as the mask has an area of elastic material with memory to self close when the clasp is withdrawn. The material may have some pleats to allow for further opening and closing properties as the clasp is inserted.



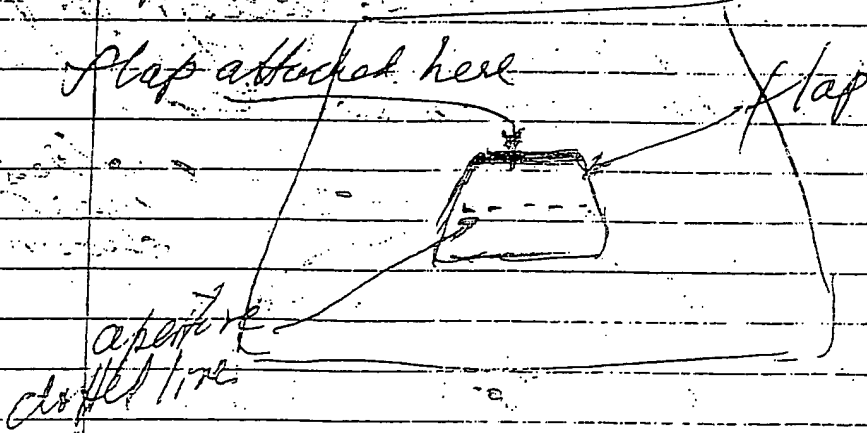
Witnessed & Undertaken by
MA. [Signature]

*Rose Fedy. Laura
Dana & Co. Broadway N. York.*

A side view of such middle
 ends will look as: a) as device
 is pushed in and as b) as device is out.



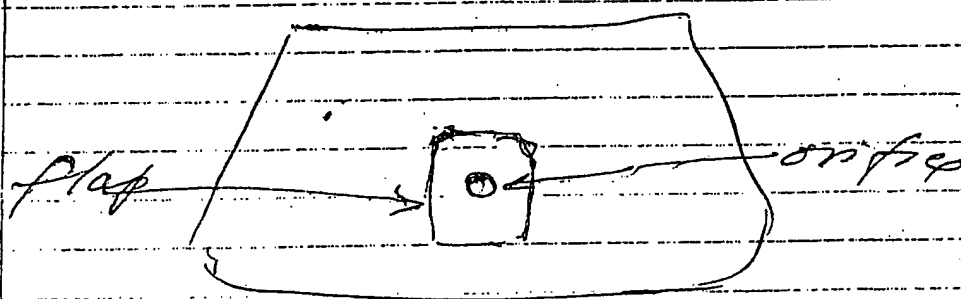
Another example of the multipage
 page mark is such that the
 aperture or opening is covered
 by a solid flap as shown
 the flap is attached at the top



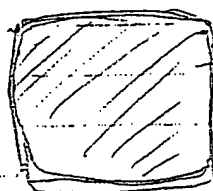
Witnessed & Understood by
 Maria O. Warner

Invented by James F. Warner
 Recorded by Dr. E. C. Warner

When the flap is raised the device can be inserted. When the device is withdrawn the flap closes covering the aperture. Yet another example of the mask is when the mask has an orifice or aperture through which the wearer can insert hydration or nutrient carrying devices into the mouth as a detachable cover covers the orifice when the person is not eating or drinking. Such mask would look as follows.



The flap is totally detachable so that it looks as such.



Detachable flap
can be of filtering
material or not.

Other examples are also possible.

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